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**THE UNITED STATES OBTAINS \$65,000 AND A LIFETIME  
INJUNCTION AGAINST MARKET  
OWNERS FOR PROVIDING A PLACE TO SELL CHEMICALS  
USED TO MANUFACTURE METHAMPHETAMINE**

SACRAMENTO- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that the United States has obtained \$65,000 and a permanent injunction in a civil asset forfeiture case against Orlando's Bait & Tackle, located at 5611 E. Waterloo Road, in Stockton, and two additional markets, Orlando's Market and Cedar Market, and their owners/operators, Sam Orlando, Marilyn Orlando, and Sam Orlando, Jr. In the case, the United States filed suit directly against Orlando's Bait & Tackle, alleging that it provided a place to distribute listed chemicals used to manufacture methamphetamine.

United States Attorney McGregor Scott said, "We will use all remedies available against those who violate the law and contribute to the methamphetamine problem in California." The district court entered the judgment on Monday.

In the complaint, the United States alleged that over a six-month period between October 1997 and April 1998, Orlando's Bait & Tackle purchased extraordinary quantities of pseudoephedrine, a precursor chemical used to manufacture methamphetamine. During that time period, Orlando's Bait & Tackle purchased over 9,936 bottles, containing over 596,160 tablets of the chemical.

The case arose out of an investigation and civil prosecution of one of Orlando's Bait & Tackle's distributors, Grab Bag Distributing and its owner Rodney Nickerson, 66, of Modesto. In July 2002, a jury returned a verdict against Nickerson for \$441,000 in civil penalties for violations of the Controlled Substances Act arising from his sale of pseudoephedrine to numerous convenience stores. But because of a loop-hole in the Act, market store owners, who do not have a DEA registration, are not liable for the same civil penalties. As such, the United States brought a civil forfeiture action directly against Orlando's Bait & Tackle itself, contending that the store facilitated the violations of the Act and should be forfeited to the United States.

In addition to the \$65,000 payment, Sam Orlando, Marilyn Orlando, and Sam Orlando,

Jr. have agreed to a life-time, permanent injunction against their sale of pseudoephedrine and any other chemicals or supplies that could be used to manufacture methamphetamine. Like Nickerson, Sam Orlando, Marilyn Orlando, and Sam Orlando, Jr. have agreed to cooperate fully with law enforcement in on-going investigations.

Under the terms of the stipulation and final judgment, while the Orlando's did not admit the truth of the allegations in the complaint, they did admit that a factual basis exists for the forfeiture of the property.

The case was investigated by DEA and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Courtney J. Linn and Michael A. Hirst.

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